

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 SOE-02

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08

DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07

TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01 /164 W

-----116927 241910Z /50

R 240700Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 766

INFO: RUQMBI/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI 027

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL DOUALA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 702

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, GB

SUBJ: INTENSIFICATION OF EXPLORATION FOR PETROLEUM IN GABON;

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RUMOR OF NEW DISCOVERY

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: LIBREVILLE'S "L'UNION" OF MARCH 20
CARRIED LENGTHY ARTICLE RE INTENSIFICATION OF EXPLORATION
FOR PETROLEUM IN GABON DURING 1978 IN AMOUNT OF TENS OF
BILLIONS OF CFA (ONE BILLION CFA APPROXIMATELY US\$4 MILLION).
ELF-GABON AND SHELL GABON, MAJOR PRODUCERS, ARE OPTIMISTIC.

IN LATE 1977 ELF INCREASED CAPITAL FROM 15 TO 22.5 BILLION CFA (OR BY US\$30 MILLION), AND SHELL WILL DEVOTE 14 BILLION CFA (US\$56 MILLION) IN 1978 TO EXPLORATION. EXPLORATION WILL BE BOTH ON SHORE AND OFF KHMMCTH ELEVEN ON SHORE WELLS PROPOSED. DETAILS OF EXPLORATION PROGRAM FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN MOTIAL: DIRECTOR GENERAL OF GULF OIL COMPANY OF GABON (PLEASENOTA) MENTIONED TO ECONOFF ON MARCH 22 THAT THERE IS CURRENT QUOTE WHIFF UNQUOTE OF A NEW DISCOVERY BY ELF AND UNNAMED PARTNERS IN THE BANIO LAGOON AREA IN THE SOUTH OF GABON, BETWEEN MAYUMBA AND THE CONGOLESE BORDER, ALTHOUGH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS NOT AVAILABLE.

3. COMMENT: IF RUMOR OF DISCOVERY CAN BE CONFIRMED AND IF DEPOSIT PROVES TO BE COMMERCIALY VIABLE, GABON'S FINANCIAL SITUATION AND FUTURE OF ITS PETROLEUM INDUSTRY/ RESERVES WILL RECEIVE MUCH NEEDED BOOST. END COMMENT. YATES

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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